

## **Mandated study on rural MMA provisions**

**ISSUE:** The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) mandated that MedPAC “analyze the effect on total payments, growth in costs, capital spending and such other payment effects” of nine MMA policy changes by December 2006.

**KEY POINTS:** We will discuss two draft recommendations. One regarding an outpatient low-volume adjustment for rural hospitals, and a second that would remove the disincentive for critical access hospitals to merge.

**ACTION:** Commissioners should provide comments about this mandated report.

**STAFF CONTACT:** Jeff Stensland (202-220-3726), Tim Greene, and Daniel Zabinski